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The Balance of Power

Slavery was just starting to disappear from America. Things were finally starting to look better for the African Americans. Most of slavery was banned in the North unlike some of the southern states. It all started in 1818 when Missouri tried to join the Union. Unfortunately, they could not join the Union due to the fact that they were a slave state. The free states did not want slave states to join the union. This paper will be telling what the Missouri Compromise is, what went on during the time, and how the problem was resolved.

The Missouri Compromise was a very important part of the country’s history. The Missouri Compromise was an attempt to solve sectional disputes between free states and slave states in the United States. There were a total of eight different sections to the compromise. The Missouri Compromise took place 1820 to 1821, but there was still much controversy between the slave states and free states before that. It took place in the Louisiana territory north of thirty six degrees north latitude because south of that was not involved. “It was part of the abolitionist act to end slavery” (Altman 15). Thomas Jefferson described it “Like a fire bell in the night, awakened me and filled me with terror.” What he said means that he thought that the whole situation was very chaotic. The situation was in fact chaotic.

The start of the controversy came along in 1818 when Missouri tried to join the Union. “Controversy arose when the free states did not let most of the slave states in the Union” (Miller, Grolier). The problem grew over several years. In 1819 Alabama was accepted into the Union as a slave state. This made Missouri even more angry. Missouri passed a couple of laws to slowly erase slavery from their state, but it still did not help them get into the Union. For many years there have been sectional disputes and high tensions between the slave states and the free states in the country. The differences between the two types of states were so high that the controversy lasted over ten years after Missouri was not accepted into the Union. Until slavery was completely gone from the states there were always differences between slave states and free states.

Throughout the ten years of the Missouri Compromise there were many attempts to get Missouri into the Union. First Rep. James Tallmadge of New York added to the Missouri statehood bill saying that Missouri will slowly eliminate slavery. They were still not accepted into the Union. Than later in 1819 James Tallmadge proposed another solution saying that there would be no more slaves brought to Missouri, but they were still considered a slave state. Although James Tallmadge tried his hardest to get Missouri into the union, he did absolutely nothing to solve the moral dilemma. Henry Clay was capable of solving the problem temporarily by admitting that Missouri was still a slave state, but this had no effect in the long run. Finally, “there was a proposal called the Missouri Compromise that was accepted in the Senate but was defeated in the house” (Missouri Compromise, ABC Clio). So after all the attempts to get Missouri into the union, they were not accepted until slavery was completely removed from their state.

This paper of important facts showed what the Missouri Compromise was, what was going on during that time, and how it was resolved. The compromise effected Missouri and many other historical events like the Kansas-Nebraska Act. The Missouri Compromise caused a lot of controversy. It was an act to end slavery. It was a very impactful compromise because it helped end slavery and influenced other acts to end slavery. If this event never occurred, there is a possibility that slavery would have taken much longer to be resolved and there would still be some controversy today. This event changed the way people viewed the slave states in that time period. The Missouri Compromise was an important factor in ending slavery and ending the controversy between free and slave states.